(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) what is the contribution of C.S.I.R. and other concerned organistations in improving its yield; and

(d) what other steps are being contemplated to improve the production of tea at Kangra?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The factors attributed to the low production are over aged bushes, low bush population irregular field practices, shortage of Labour, worn out and inadequate processing machineries resulting in poor quality of tea, small size of holdings, etc.

(c) C.S.I.R. had set up a hill tea division at Palampur in 1984 for conducting research for development of good clones, evolving package of practices for tea cultivation, imparting training to small growers and organising demonstration in farmer fields.

As regards other concerned organisations in improving their tea production, the Tea Experimental Station in Palampur run by Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishwa Vidhyalaya with financial assistance from Tea Board is engaged in conducting adaptive research activities towards idenitfying clones suited to Himachal Pradesh, evolving package of practices for cultivation of tea and demonstration at the farmer fields for improving their productivity. The University has reelased 2 clones found suitable for commercial cultivation in Himachal Pradesh.

Besides, Department of Industries, Government of Himachal Pradesh has been engaged in motivating the small growers to adopt tea cultivation and to rejuvenate and consolidate their existing tea areas. The Department has also set up tea nurseries with assistance from Tea Board for distribution of plants to the small growers. Apart from this, the Department is also supplying the agro-inputs at subsidies cost.

(d) Current status of industry warrants undertaking developmental measures towards demonstration of improved cultural practices, imparitng training to the small growers of improved cultural practices, rejuvenation and consolidation of the existing area. supply of improved planting material at subsidised cost, motivation of small and marginal farmers in switching over to tea from traditional marginal cultivation, improving manufacturing capacity through cooperative sector.

Export of Gems

1922. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the percentage of decline in the export of gems during 1990-91 and the percentage of decline in the exports of Gems in 1991-92;

(b) what are the reasons for decline in the exports of Gems stating the names of importing countries, the percentage of decline in export of Gems and foreign exchange earned in each case; and

(c) the measures contemplated by Government to step up increase in the exports of Gems and to export new markets?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI SALMAN KHURSHEED): (a) The export of gems i.e. coloured gemstones (excluding diamonds, pearls and synthetic stones) for the last three years are given as under;

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Year	Value	%Growth in Rupee	%Growth in US$
1989-90	*194·82*		
1990-91	207·70	+6·6	—0·85
1991-92	257·02	+23·75	—10·34

(Source: GJEPC)

(b) There is a decline in export of gems in dollar terms due to a general recession in the major international markets for gems and jewellery. The country-wise exports of coloured gem-stones from India and the percentage of growth or decline in each case in Rupee terms is given below:—

(Value in Rs. Crores)

Country	1990-91	1991-92	Percentage Growth/ decline
USA	42·38	64·23	+51·55
Hongkong	39·92	47·78	+19·68
Thailand	35·81	49·62	+38·56
West Germany	22·26	26·18	+17·61
Switzerland	17·73	24·82	+39·98
Others	49·60	44·39	—10·50
TOTAL:	207·70	257·02	+23·74

(Source : GJEPC)

(c) Exporters of gems and jewellery, items are provided access to raw materials through the various schemes notified in the Export-Import Policy to increase the exports of Gem and Jewellery. Exporters are also assisted for participation in fairs and exhibitions and for sending delegations for market surveys in foreign markets.